

St Daigh's N S Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment

Child Safeguarding Statement

March 2023

St Daigh's N.S. is a primary school providing *primary* education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class and pupils with ASD and Mild General Learning Disability.

In accordance with the requirements of the **Children First Act 2015**, **Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017**, the **Addendum to Children First (2019)**, the **Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017** and **Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements**, the *Board of Management of St Daigh's N.S.* has agreed the *Child Safeguarding Statement* set out in this document.

The Board of Management has adopted and will implement fully and without modification the Department's *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017* as part of this overall *Child Safeguarding Statement*.

The Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is *Tomás MacGiollachomáin*
The Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Deputy DLP) is *Sandra Cumiskey*

The Board of Management recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and must be reflected in all of the school's policies, procedures, practices and activities. In its policies, procedures, practices and activities, the school will adhere to the following principles of best practice in child protection and welfare:

The school will:

- recognise that the protection and welfare of children is of paramount importance, regardless of all other considerations;
- fully comply with its statutory obligations under the Children First Act 2015 and other relevant legislation relating to the protection and welfare of children;
- fully co-operate with the relevant statutory authorities in relation to child protection and welfare matters;
- adopt safe practices to minimise the possibility of harm or accidents happening to children and protect workers from the necessity to take unnecessary risks that may leave themselves open to accusations of abuse or neglect;
- develop a practice of openness with parents/guardians and encourage parental/guardian involvement in the education of their children; and
- fully respect confidentiality requirements in dealing with child protection matters.

The school will also adhere to the above principles in relation to any pupil or adult pupil with a special vulnerability.

The following procedures/measures are in place:

- In relation to any member of staff who is the subject of any investigation (howsoever described) in respect of any act, omission or circumstance in respect of a child attending the school, the school adheres to the relevant procedures set out in ***Chapter 7 of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*** and to the relevant agreed disciplinary procedures for school staff which are published on the DE website.
- In relation to the selection or recruitment of staff and their suitability to work with children, the school adheres to the statutory vetting requirements of the ***National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016*** and to the wider duty of care guidance set out in relevant Garda vetting and recruitment circulars published by the Department of Education and available on the DE website.
- In relation to the provision of information and, where necessary, instruction and training, to staff in respect of the identification of the occurrence of harm (as defined in the 2015 Act) the school-
 - Has provided each member of staff with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Ensures all new staff are provided with a copy of the school’s Child Safeguarding Statement
 - Encourages staff to avail of relevant training
 - Encourages Board of Management members to avail of relevant training
 - The Board of Management maintains records of all staff and Board member training
- In relation to reporting of child protection concerns to ***Tusla***, all school personnel are required to adhere to the procedures set out in the ***Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017***, including in the case of registered teachers, those in relation to mandated reporting under the Children First Act 2015.
- In this school the Board has appointed the above named **DLP** as the “relevant person” (as defined in the Children First Act 2015) to be the first point of contact in respect of the school’s child safeguarding statement.
- ***All registered teachers employed by the school are mandated persons under the Children First Act 2015.***
- In accordance with the ***Children First Act 2015 and the Addendum to Children First (2019)***, the Board has carried out an assessment of any potential for harm to a child while attending the school or participating in school activities. A written assessment setting out the areas of risk identified and the school’s procedures for managing those risks is ***included*** with the Child Safeguarding Statement.
- The various procedures referred to in this Statement can be accessed via the school’s website, the DE website or will be made available on request by the school.

2. This statement has been published on the school's website and has been provided to all members of school personnel, St Daigh's N.S. Parents' Association and the patron, Bishop of Clogher. It is readily accessible to parents and guardians on request. A copy of this Statement will be made available to Tusla and the Department of Education if requested.

3. This *Child Safeguarding Statement* will be reviewed *annually* or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

This *Child Safeguarding Statement* was adopted by the Board of Management on 8/3/2023

This *Child Safeguarding Statement* was reviewed by the Board of Management on 8/3/2023

Signed: Michael W. Ardle
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Tomás MacGiollachomáin
Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 8/3/23.

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The Board further endorses the Principal, *Tomás MacGiollachomáin* as the school DLP and *Sandra Cumiskey* as Deputy DLP.

Child Protection Contacts

Designated Liaison Person

Tomás MacGiollachomáin

Deputy DLP

Sandra Cumiskey

Local Contacts

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**St Daigh' s N S Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment March 2022
(of any potential harm)**

List of School Activities	Risk Level	The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Training of school personnel in Child Protection matters	High	Harm not recognised or reported promptly. Bullying, Cyber bullying, all forms of abuse not detected or properly reported	<p><i>St Daigh's N S Child Safeguarding Statement & DE Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> procedures made available to all school personnel. School Personnel are required to adhere to the <i>Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017</i> and all registered teaching staff are required to adhere to the <i>Children First Act 2015 and its Addendum (2019)</i></p> <p>DLP & DDLP to attend PDST face to face training and any other available training. All Staff to view Tusla training module & PDST online training module</p> <p>BOM records all records of staff and board training. Certificates of staff and BOM attendance filed in Child Safeguarding folder. Child Safeguarding Statement & review of same Tusla/PDST online training modules: Ensure training is certified and evidence of training filed. All members of staff and Board of Management in receipt of the following documents: DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017, Children First 2017, DES Circular 81/2017 DLP and DDLP PDST Child Safeguarding training May 2018 DDLP</p> <p>Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspections Seminar for Principals: DDLP attended, March 2019 Attendance by school staff at any available child safeguarding training.</p>

			<p>DDLDP has attended Sport Ireland Safeguarding Level 3 (Designated Liaison Person) Training Workshop on 20/6/2019.</p> <p>All school personnel including Board Of Management are encouraged to partake in ongoing training whenever it becomes available.</p> <p>Child Protection and Bullying included on agendas for all staff meetings, both fortnightly staff meetings and termly meetings.</p> <p>PDST Child Protection Webinars for DLPs and DDLPs.</p> <p>DDLDP attended Safeguarding 3 DLP workshop on 23/6/2022</p> <p>PDST Staff webinars annually.</p>
One to one teaching	Med	Harm by school personnel	<p>SEN Policy</p> <p>School has policy in place for one to one teaching</p> <p>Open doors where possible</p> <p>Small groups where possible</p> <p>Glass in window/viewing panels between rooms/viewing panels in doors</p>
One to one learning support	Med	Harm by school personnel	<p>SEN Policy</p> <p>School has policy in place for one to one teaching including learning support.</p> <p>Open doors where possible</p> <p>Small groups where possible</p> <p>Glass in window/viewing panels between rooms/viewing panels in doors</p>
One to one counselling	Med	Harm by school personnel/visiting counsellor	<p>School has policy in place for one to one teaching/counselling including learning support.</p> <p>Open doors where possible</p> <p>Small groups where possible.</p> <p>Glass in window/viewing panels between rooms/viewing panels in doors</p>
Online teaching and learning remotely	Med	<p>Harm by external personnel</p> <p>Misuse of videos</p> <p>Harm due to inappropriate use of online remote teaching and learning communication platform such as students being left unsupervised for long periods of time on a device in their own home.</p>	<p>ICT Acceptable Use Policy</p> <p>St Daigh's N S does not use Zoom or other live teaching platforms to deliver remote learning. If necessary, St Daigh's N S uses pre-recorded lessons on the Aladdin platform to deliver remote learning. Feedback via Aladdin/teacher's school email.</p>

Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	High	Images and videos uploaded to social media and other technological platforms, inappropriate editing of images/videos/ Misuse of images/videos Harm by external personnel	ICT Acceptable Use Policy Photograph/Videography Policy Permission from parents/guardians Names not attached to image Mobile phones/watches with facility to record or take images/any device with facility to record/take photos are banned from the school except with prior permission to bring to school. St Daigh's N S does not use Zoom or other live teaching platforms to deliver remote learning. When necessary, St Daigh's N S uses recorded lessons on the Aladdin platform to deliver remote learning.
Care of Children with special needs, including intimate care needs	Med	Harm by school personnel	Policy on Intimate Care Intimate care needs are carried out by at least TWO members of staff at all times.
Care of vulnerable adult students, including intimate care where needed.	Med	Harm by school personnel	Policy on Intimate Care Intimate care needs are carried out by at least TWO members of staff at all times. It would be unusual to have vulnerable adult students onsite in St Daigh's N S.
Toilet areas	Med	Inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy Anti-Bullying Policy/ SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code of Behaviour
Curricular Provision in respect of SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe, KiVa Anti Bullying Program, Wellbeing.	Low	Non-teaching of same	School implements SPHE, RSE, Stay Safe in full, Making The Links, KiVa Anti Bullying Programme, Wellbeing lessons, Weaving Wellbeing , (Stay Safe is taught on a two-year basis i.e. Junior Infants/First Class/Third Class/Fifth Class and in the ASD & MGLD Classes as per SPHE School plan and author's recommendation) Evidence in teacher's planning and Cuntas Miosúil
LGBT Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT	Med	Bullying/Racism	Anti-Bullying Policy/ SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code of Behaviour Anti-racism awareness initiatives undertaken when available.

List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Daily arrival and dismissal of pupils	Med	Harm from older pupils, unknown adults on the playground/open accessible playground. Open gates.	Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Playground area rotas/Staff supervision rotas Health & Safety Policy Close gates on arrival of pupils to school.
Managing of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint	High	Injury to pupils and staff	Physical Intervention With Pupils Policy Health & Safety Policy Code Of Behaviour Anti Bullying Policy
Sports Coaches	Med	Harm to pupils, confidentiality	Policy on Visiting Personnel National Garda Vetting Staff member present Confidentiality Policy
Student teachers undertaking training placement in school	Med	Harm to pupils, confidentiality	National Garda Vetting Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to student teachers Confidentiality Policy
Students participating in work experience	Med	Harm to pupils, confidentiality	Work Experience Policy Child Safeguarding Statement. National Garda Vetting Confirmation from student's school/college Confidentiality Policy
Recreation breaks for pupils	High	Behaviour issues, bullying, injury, proximity of public road/footpath, ease of access.	Supervision Policy Recreation Breaks Staggered/Junior School/ Senior School Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Playground area rotas/Staff supervision rotas

Classroom teaching	Low	Harm from other pupils in class, class size, harm by school personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour,	Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy Code Of Behaviour
Outdoor teaching activities	Med	Harm from other pupils in class, class size, harm by school personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour,	Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour
Sporting Activities	Med	Harm from other pupils in class, harm by school personnel, harm by external personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour, injury	Swim Policy Intimate Care and Toileting Policy Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/ SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Permission from parents/guardians
Management of provision of food and drink	Med	Harm from other pupils in class, harm by school personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour Harm from contractors, delivery personnel	Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Local Knowledge Staff member present Confidentiality Policy Policy on Visiting Personnel
Breakfast club	Low	Harm from other pupils in class, harm by school personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour	Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Staff member present/supervising
List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
School outings	High	Harm from other pupils in class, harm by school personnel, harm by external personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour, injury Harm to child while the child is receiving intimate care.	School Tours Policy High Visibility Clothing Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Intimate Care and Toileting Policy Permission from parents/guardians

School trips involving overnight stay	High	Harm from other pupils in class, harm by school personnel, harm by external personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour, injury Harm to child while the child is receiving intimate care.	School Tours Policy High Visibility Clothing Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Intimate Care and Toileting Policy Permission from parents/guardians
School trips involving foreign travel	High	Harm from other pupils in class, harm by school personnel, harm by external personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour, injury Harm to child while the child is receiving intimate care.	School Tours Policy High Visibility Clothing Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Intimate Care and Toileting Policy Permission from parents/guardians
Annual Sports Day	Med	Harm from other pupils in class, harm by school personnel, harm by external personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour, injury Harm to child while the child is receiving intimate care.	Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Intimate Care and Toileting Policy
Fundraising events involving pupils	Med	Harm from other pupils in class, harm by school personnel, harm by external personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour, injury Harm to child while the child is receiving intimate care.	Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Intimate Care and Toileting Policy
Use of off-site facilities for school activities: e.g. Community Centre, Church, GAA pitch, Swimming Pool, other schools, Nursing Homes etc.	High	Harm from other pupils in class, harm by school personnel, harm by external personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour, injury Harm to child while the child is receiving intimate care.	Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Intimate Care and Toileting Policy Permission from parents/guardians
School transport	High	Harm from other pupils, harm by external personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour, injury	Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Health & Safety Policy
List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Care of any vulnerable students, including intimate care where needed	Med	Harm by school personnel, harm from other pupils, bullying, inappropriate behaviour	Policy on Intimate Care Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum

		Harm to child while the child is receiving intimate care.	Code Of Behaviour
Management of challenging behaviour amongst pupils, including appropriate use of restraint where required	High	Harm from other pupils, harm by school personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour, injury to pupils and staff.	Physical Intervention With Pupils Policy Supervision Policy Anti Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code Of Behaviour Health & Safety Policy
Administration of Medicine Administration of First Aid	Med /High	Incorrect administration of medicine e.g epipen Failure to inform parents/guardians of head injury or other. Non provision by parents/guardians of up to date emergency medication where medically advised to provide in school.	Administration Of Medicines Policy HSE Training for school staff in administration of medicines First Aid Policy First Aid Training Health & Safety Policy
Prevention and dealing with bullying amongst pupils	High	Bullying both at school and outside, cyber bullying, transgender bullying etc Harm due to inadequate supervision of children in school.	Anti Bullying Policy SPHE/RSE Curriculum Supervision Policy Code Of Behaviour ICT Acceptable Use Policy
Use of external personnel to supplement curriculum	Med	Harm to pupils	Policy on Visiting Personnel Supervision Policy National Garda Vetting Staff member present
List of School Activities		The School has identified the following Risk of Harm	The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment
Care of pupils with specific vulnerabilities/ needs such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils from ethnic minorities/migrants • Members of the Traveller community 	Med	Bullying both at school and outside, cyber bullying, transgender bullying etc Harm due to racism. Harm to child while the child is receiving intimate care.	Anti Bullying Policy SPHE/RSE Curriculum SCP Supervision Policy Code Of Behaviour

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) children • Children/Pupils perceived to be LGBT • Pupils of minority religious faiths • Children in care • Children on CPNS • Children with Medical/Physical Needs 			Policy on Intimate Care
<p>Recruitment of school personnel including -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • SNA's • Caretaker/Secretary/Cleaners • Sports coaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Tutors/Guest Speakers • Volunteers/Parents in school activities • Visitors/contractors present in school during school hours • Visitors/contractors present during after school activities • School Chaplain 	Med	<p>Harm not recognised or properly or promptly reported. Confidentiality. Harm by volunteer or visitor to the school.</p>	<p>Child Safeguarding Statement & DES procedures made available to all staff, Board of Management, Parent's Association</p> <p>Staff and Board of Management to view Tusla online and PDST online training modules</p> <p>National Garda Vetting Procedures Local Knowledge Referees/References Staff member present Confidentiality Policy Policy on Visiting Personnel Supervision Policy</p>
<p>List of School Activities</p>		<p>The School has identified the following Risk of Harm</p>	<p>The School has the following Procedures in place to address risk identified in this assessment</p>
<p>Use of Information and Communication Technology by pupils in school including Social Media</p>	Med	<p>Bullying, Cyber Bullying, inappropriate images viewed or inappropriate searches Harm due to children inappropriately accessing/using computers, social media, phones and other devices while at school. Harm caused by a member of school personnel communicating with pupils in an inappropriate manner via social media, texting, digital device or other manner.</p>	<p>ICT Acceptable Use policy Anti-Bullying Policy/ SPHE/RSE Curriculum Code of Behaviour NCSE Firewall/Filter Devices password protected National Garda Vetting Procedures</p>

		Harm caused by a member of school personnel accessing/circulating inappropriate material via social media, texting, digital device or other manner. Harm of assault or sexual abuse.	
Application of sanctions under the school's Code of Behaviour including detention of pupils, confiscation of phones/recording watches etc.	Med	Bullying, Cyber Bullying, inappropriate images viewed or inappropriate searches, recording, taking photographs, videos of pupils or school personnel. Misuse of same.	Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum ICT Acceptable Use Policy Mobile Phone Policy
Use of video/photography/other media to record school events	High	Images and videos uploaded to social media and other technological platforms, inappropriate editing of images/videos/ Misuse of images/videos Harm by external personnel Harm of assault or sexual abuse.	ICT Acceptable Use Policy Photograph/Videography Policy Permission from parents/guardians Names not attached to image Mobile Phone Policy Mobile phones/watches with facility to record or take images/any device with facility to record/take photos are banned from the school except with prior permission to bring to school. St Daigh's N S does not use Zoom or other live teaching platforms to deliver remote learning. St Daigh's N S uses recorded lessons on the Aladdin platform to deliver remote learning.
After school use of school premises by other organisations	Med	Confidentiality	Classroom doors locked
Use of school premises by other organisations during the school day	Med	Confidentiality	Principal/staff onsite. Designated areas only.
Participation by pupils in religious ceremonies/religious instruction external to the school. Serving At Mass: Fifth and Sixth Classes, funerals, weddings, anniversary masses etc. Church: Attendance at First Holy Communion Practices, Confirmation Practices, Confirmation Retreats, Pledge Practice, School Mass, Christmas Ee Mass, Attendance at Children of The Eucharist adoration, etc	Med	Harm from other pupils who serve Mass, harm by school personnel, harm by external personnel, Harm by Church personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour,	Permission from parents/guardians Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum National Vetting Procedures: Church and School Church Child Safeguarding Statement & Risk Assessment & training of clergy and staff. Transport: Children are dropped off and collected by school staff or parents/guardians Walkers accompanied by school staff.
Going to Shop/Credit Union: Sixth Class only: In pairs only	Med	Harm from other pupils who accompany pupil to shop, harm by school personnel, harm by external personnel, bullying, inappropriate behaviour,	Permission from parents/guardians/ High Visibility Clothing Code of Behaviour Anti-Bullying Policy/SPHE/RSE Curriculum

Homework Club/Evening Study	Low	No homework club/evening study takes place in St Daigh's	

Important Note: It should be noted that risk in the context of this risk assessment is the risk of “harm” as defined in the Children First Act 2015 and not general health and safety risk. The definition of harm is set out in Chapter 4 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*

In undertaking this risk assessment, the board of management has endeavoured to identify as far as possible the risks of harm that are relevant to this school and to ensure that adequate procedures are in place to manage all risks identified. While it is not possible to foresee and remove all risk of harm, the school has in place the procedures listed in this risk assessment to manage and reduce risk to the greatest possible extent.

This risk assessment has been completed by the Board of Management on *9th March 2018*.

It was reviewed on the *20th September 2018*.

It was subsequently reviewed on the *13th March 2019, the 9th March 2020, the 9th March 2021 and the 8th March 2022*.

It was reviewed again on the *8th March 2023*.

It will continue to be reviewed as part of the school's annual review of its Child Safeguarding Statement.

The Board of Management welcomes any suggestions which might identify and quantify risk in relation to child safe guarding in St Daigh's N S.

Signed *Michael M'Ardule* Date *8/3/23*

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed *Tamara M. L. O'Brien* Date *8/3/23*

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management